

Remarks/Arguments:

In response to the office action dated 01/20/06 Applicants have amended their claims as hereinabove shown and request reconsideration and early allowance for the following reasons.

1. Rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2d paragraph.

Claims 1,2,4,5 and 7-17, all claims in this application stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 2d paragraph for the following reasons.

Independent claims 1 and 7 stand rejected because the term "insulating member" finds no proper antecedent basis and is confusing. Applicants have amended these claims replacing the term "insulating member" by the term "insulating wafers". It is believed that this change clarifies the scope of these claims.

Claim 8 is objected to because the expression "said first insulating layer" is repeated twice. Claim 8 has been appropriately amended.

Claim 8 has also been rejected because on line 10 the term "exposed areas" lacks antecedent. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because there is no definite article associated with this term, and as the sentence reads it is clear that this term refers to any exposed areas on the top and bottom of the cell, such reference being one of first instance.

The remaining claims have been rejected/objected on the basis of their dependency from the independent claims, therefore correction of the independent claims should remove this rejection/objection as well.

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Amendment Dated February 17, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 20, 2006

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3. Conclusion.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 7 and 8 to overcome their rejection. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment and applicants respectfully solicit entry of the amended claims, reconsideration of the amended claims and allowance of all claims as amended.

Respectfully submitted,



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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on: **February 17, 2006**



Gayle D. Bay